

Amendments to the Claims

The "Listing of Claims" replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

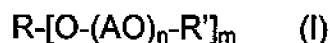
Listing of Claims:

1-35. (Cancelled).

36. (Currently amended) A process for treating textile fibers comprising:

(1) contacting the fibers with an aqueous composition, comprising:

(a) a compound of formula:



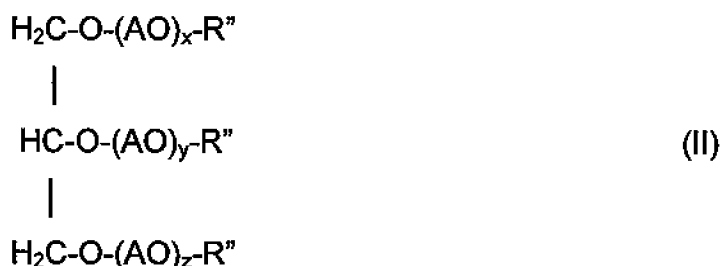
wherein R is an at least monofunctional, saturated or unsaturated, alkyl group having from at least 2 up to 36 carbon atoms, m is a number from 1 to 16, and n is a number from 1 to 500, with the proviso that the product of n and m has a value of at least 1, AO independently represents C₂H₄O-, C₃H₆O- or C₄H₈O- and R', independently of each other, represents a hydrogen atom or a sulfur-containing group selected from the group consisting of OC-CH₂-S-SO₃M and SO₃M, M is a cation having at least one charge, and, wherein, at least one R' is the sulfur-containing group; and

(b) at least one member selected from the group consisting of textile fiber cleaning surfactants and textile fiber softening agents, wherein the composition has a pH of from about 5 to 9; and

(2) drying the textile fibers~~[[;]]~~

~~whereby, pilling of~~ wherein the treated fibers is improved exhibit reduced pilling.

37. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 36, wherein, the aqueous composition contains a compound of formula:



wherein R'', independently of each other, represent a hydrogen atom or a sulfur-containing group selected from the group consisting of OC-CH₂-S-SO₃M and SO₃M, and, wherein, at least one R'' is a sulfur-containing group, AO, independently of each other, represents C₂H₄O-, C₃H₆O- or C₄H₈O-, the indices x, y and z, independently of one another, are 0 or their sum has a value of from 1 to 500, M is a cation having at least one charge, and wherein if x, y or z is zero, its corresponding substituent R'' is a hydrogen atom.

38. (Previously presented) The process of claim 36, wherein, in formula (I) the product of n and m is a number from 10 to 100.

39. (Previously presented) The process of claim 36, wherein, in formula (I) the product of n and m is a number from 30 to 80.

40. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 36, wherein, AO is exclusively C₂H₄O.

41. (Previously presented) The process of claim 36, wherein, AO is exclusively C₃H₆O.

42. (Previously presented) The process of claim 36 wherein the compound of formula (I) is present in the composition in an amount of from about 0.1 to 90% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

43-44. (Cancelled).

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45. (Previously presented) The process of claim 36 wherein the compound of formula (I) is present in the composition in an amount of from about 25 to 45% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

46. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 37, wherein, in formula (II) the sum of $x + y + z$ is a number of from 10 to 100.

47. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 37, wherein, the sum of $x + y + z$ is a number of from 30 to 80.

48. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 37, wherein, AO is exclusively C_2H_4O .

49. (Previously presented) The process of claim 37, wherein, AO is exclusively C_3H_6O .

50. (Previously presented) The process of claim 37 wherein the compound of formula (II) is present in the composition in an amount of from about 0.1 to 90% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

51-52. (Cancelled).

53. (Previously presented) The process of claim 37 wherein the compound of formula (II) is present in the composition in an amount of from about 25 to 45% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

54. (Previously presented) The process of claim 36 wherein the textile fibers comprise at least one member selected from the group consisting of wool fibers and cotton fibers.

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55. (Previously presented) The process of claim 37 wherein the textile fibers comprise at least one member selected from the group consisting of wool fibers and cotton fibers.